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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, KS, US
SUBJ: PRESS STATEMENTS ON JUSTICE DEPARTMENT NEGOTIATIONS ON PARK TONG-SON
REF: A) SEOUL 8961, B) SEOUL 8981

1. MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR PAK SANG-YONG CALLED POLCOUNS MORNING OF OCTOBER 26 TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR PRIOR NOTIFICATION OF DOJ PRESS RELEASE GIVEN ROK EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. AT THE SAME TIME. HOWEVER, HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT WHEN RECEIVING ADVANCE COPY OF PRESS STATEMENT. ROK EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE HAD GAINED IMPRESSION THAT RELEASE WAS BEING MADE IN RESPONSE TO "UNILATERAL" STATEMENT MADE TO PRESS BY ROKG.

2. AS REPORTED PARA 2. REF A. ROK CONSIDERATION OF PRESS RESPONSE ON NEGOTIATIONS WAS ONLY MADE AFTER CIVILETTI INTERVIEW CARRIED BY THE UPI. AS FURTHER NOTED REF B, ROK MINISTRY OF JUSTICE DID NOT ISSUE STATEMENT BUT ONLY PROVIDED INFORMATION TO LOCAL PRESS ON BACKGROUND BASIS. POLCOUNS ASSURED PAK HE WOULD BRING TIMING AND CIRCUM-STANCES OF PRESS HANDLING OF THIS MATTER TO ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT TO PRECLUDE ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 09033 260923Z
OF ROK ACTIONS IN THIS MATTER.
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